

tent corps of professors, to purchase a library, chemical and philosophical apparatus, and a cabinet of geological and mineralogical specimens, would subject the State to such an outlay of money, as would not for a moment be contemplated, in the present condition of our finances, or within the current estimate of the results to be accomplished.

With my knowledge of the high character and resources of St. John's college, Annapolis, since its late reorganization, I do not hesitate to express the opinion that this institution will soon rank with the first colleges of our country, and is better adapted to the purpose than any other within the State. Its locality in a healthy position, and at the seat of government, indicates its direct advantages; while the large and commodious buildings and grounds, the accomplished corps of professors, its extensive campus, its library, cabinet, and scientific apparatus are sufficient to assure you of the highest eligibility.

On the necessity and propriety of the institution proposed, I need hardly enlarge. Your experience and intelligence will anticipate argument or suggestion. It has its analogy in almost every calling. Professional men do not emerge at once from academic halls. Before they can exercise their profession with a conscientious regard for the interests confided to them, they must have devoted years to the study of the great principles which belong especially to their profession. At this day, a man is not deemed fully competent (without long practical experience,) to till the earth, until he has acquired some knowledge of the nature of soils, the best means for their improvement, and a general acquaintance with the philosophy of agriculture. Beyond question then, the man to whom the culture of the human intellect is submitted, should be prepared by a special course of training for his work.

In a Normal School, provided as I have intimated it would be, at St. John's College, the purpose defined by the term would be effectually matured. There the student would learn to teach according to rule, and ultimately that rule would become uniform, throughout the State, from rudimental to the most elaborate tuition. The material to be furnished for normal school institution should consist of a selection of the best and most promising boys in the primary schools, not otherwise determined in their future prospects. The choice might be left to the Orphans Court for the respective counties, or some competent board of Examination; one youth being selected by each county and one or more from Baltimore city; these youths to be sent to College where they may be trained for a term of years, carefully and diligently at the expense of the State, and with especial reference to the purposes of tuition in the common schools. It is well understood, that the State could exercise no obligatory control over youths thus educated; but the opportunity to secure their services at a remunerative salary, and the